

COLLECT

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

PSALM Psalm 72:[1-9] 10-15

R *The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.*

Give the king your judgements, O God,
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
Then shall he judge your people righteously
and your poor with justice. **R**

May the mountains bring forth peace,
and the little hills righteousness for the people.
May he defend the poor among the people,
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor. **R**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
like the showers that water the earth.
In his time shall righteousness flourish,
and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more. **R**

May his dominion extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
May his foes kneel before him
and his enemies lick the dust. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.
All kings shall fall down before him;
all nations shall do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,
the needy and those who have no helper.
He shall have pity on the weak and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy. **R**

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba;
may prayer be made for him continually
and may they bless him all the day long. **R**

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

St John's Guild



Christians Supporting
Blind People

The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects*, 1997, which includes *The Common Worship Lectionary* (the Church of England's adaptations of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721.
www.rpbooks.co.uk Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk

Funded by St John's Guild www.stjohnsguild.org


redemptorist
publications

COLLECT

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted
children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and

from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

PSALM Psalm 29

R *The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory
thunders;

the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **R**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning; the voice of
the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the forests bare;
in his temple all cry, "Glory!" **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R**

SECOND READING Acts 8:14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Luke 3:15-17. 21-22

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his

sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

POST COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

St John's Guild



Christians Supporting
Blind People

The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects*, 1997, which includes *The Common Worship Lectionary* (the Church of England's adaptations of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721.
www.rpbooks.co.uk Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk

Funded by St John's Guild www.stjohnsguild.org


redemptorist
publications

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this: For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your

builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

PSALM Psalm 36:5-10

R *With you, O God, is the well of life.*

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains, your
justice like the great deep;
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast. **R**

How precious is your loving mercy, O God!

All mortal flesh shall take refuge under the shadow of your
wings.

They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house;
they shall drink from the river of your delights. **R**

For with you is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light.

O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you
and your righteousness to those who are true of heart. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want
you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans,
you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak.
Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by
the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no
one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now

there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

GOSPEL John 2:1-11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to

him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

POST COMMUNION

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and
obeyed to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

St John's Guild



Christians Supporting
Blind People

The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects*, 1997, which includes *The Common Worship Lectionary* (the Church of England's adaptations of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721.
www.rpbooks.co.uk Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk

Funded by St John's Guild www.stjohnsguild.org


redemptorist
publications

COLLECT

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus
Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Nehemiah 8:1-3. 5-6. 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense,

so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

PSALM Psalm 19:1-6

R *The commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.*

The heavens are telling the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
One day pours out its song to another
and one night unfolds knowledge to another. **R**

They have neither speech nor language
and their voices are not heard,
Yet their sound has gone out into all lands
and their words to the ends of the world. **R**

In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun,
that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber and
rejoices as a champion to run his course.
It goes forth from the end of the heavens and runs to the very
end again,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess

gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

GOSPEL Luke 4:14-21

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

POST COMMUNION

Generous Lord,
in word and eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of your love:
help us so to live out our days
that we may be signs of your wonders in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

St John's Guild



Christians Supporting
Blind People

The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects*, 1997, which includes *The Common Worship Lectionary* (the Church of England's adaptations of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721.
www.rpbooks.co.uk Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk

Funded by St John's Guild www.stjohnsguild.org

redemptorist
p u b l i c a t i o n s

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:

grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

PSALM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-end

R *The Lord of hosts: he is the King of glory.*

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
For he has founded it upon the seas
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep. **R**

"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,
or who can rise up in his holy place?"

"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie; **R**

"They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a just reward from the God of their salvation."
Such is the company of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

"Who is the King of glory?"

"The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle." **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

"Who is this King of glory?"

"The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory." **R**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and

free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the

rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to
eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

St John's Guild



Christians Supporting
Blind People

The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects*, 1997, which includes *The Common Worship Lectionary* (the Church of England's adaptations of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721.
www.rpbooks.co.uk Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk

Funded by St John's Guild www.stjohnsguild.org


redemptorist
publications

COLLECT

O God,
you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING (Short or long reading) **Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-end]**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who

will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” [And he said, “Go and say to this people: ‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.’ Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.” Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said: “Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; until the LORD sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump.”]

PSALM Psalm 138

R *Your loving kindness, O Lord, endures forever.*

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods will I sing praise to you.

I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things. **R**

In the day that I called to you, you answered me;
you put new strength in my soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth. **R**

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.

Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly;
as for the proud, he regards them from afar. **R**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me;
you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand will save me.

The Lord shall make good his purpose for me;

your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; forsake not the work of your hands. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

GOSPEL Luke 5:1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a

little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

POST COMMUNION

Go before us, Lord, in all we do
with your most gracious favour,
and guide us with your continual help,
that in all our works
begun, continued and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

St John's Guild



Christians Supporting
Blind People

The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects*, 1997, which includes *The Common Worship Lectionary* (the Church of England's adaptations of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721.
www.rpbooks.co.uk Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk

Funded by St John's Guild www.stjohnsguild.org


redemptorist
publications

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:
give your people grace
so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 17:5-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear

fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse – who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

PSALM Psalm 1

R *The Lord knows the way of the righteous.*

Blessed are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.
Their delight is in the law of the Lord
and they meditate on his law day and night. **R**

Like a tree planted by streams of water
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither,
whatever they do, it shall prosper.
As for the wicked, it is not so with them;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away. **R**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the
judgement,
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall perish. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

GOSPEL Luke 6:17-26

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who

weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,

who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life,
that those who come to him should never hunger:
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,
that we may eat and drink with him
at his table in the kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

St John's Guild



Christians Supporting
Blind People

The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects*, 1997, which includes *The Common Worship Lectionary* (the Church of England's adaptations of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721.
www.rpbooks.co.uk Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk

Funded by St John's Guild www.stjohnsguild.org

 **redemptorist**
p u b l i c a t i o n s

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 2:4b-9. 15-end

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up – for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground – then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and

to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

PSALM Psalm 65

R *Be joyful in God, all the earth.*

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.

To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins; when our misdeeds prevail against us,
you will purge them away. **R**

Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there.

We shall be satisfied with the blessings of your house, even of your holy temple.

With wonders you will answer us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,

O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. **R**

In your strength you set fast the mountains
and are girded about with might.

You still the raging of the seas,

the roaring of their waves and the clamour of the peoples.

Those who dwell at the ends of the earth tremble at your marvels;
the gates of the morning and evening sing your praise. **R**

You visit the earth and water it;
you make it very plenteous.

The river of God is full of water;

you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase. **R**

You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness
and the hills be girded with joy.

May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep
and the valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and
sing. **R**

SECOND READING Revelation 4

A reading from the book of Revelation.

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, "Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come." And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne,

singing, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

GOSPEL Luke 8:22-25

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
by your gift

the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

St John's Guild



Christians Supporting
Blind People

The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects*, 1997, which includes *The Common Worship Lectionary* (the Church of England's adaptations of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721.
www.rpbooks.co.uk Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk

Funded by St John's Guild www.stjohnsguild.org


redemptorist
publications

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Exodus 34:29-end

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

PSALM Psalm 99

R *The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble.*

The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble;
he is enthroned upon the cherubim: let the earth shake.
The Lord is great in Zion
and high above all peoples. **R**

Let them praise your name, which is great and awesome;
the Lord our God is holy.

Mighty king, who loves justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before his footstool, for he is holy. **R**

Moses and Aaron among his priests
and Samuel among those who call upon his name,
they called upon the Lord and he answered them.
He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept his testimonies and the law that he gave them. **R**

You answered them, O Lord our God;
you were a God who forgave them and pardoned them for their
offences.

Exalt the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill,
for the Lord our God is holy. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Since we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like
Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel
from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside.

But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when

they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

GOSPEL Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had

spoken, Jesus was found alone. And the disciples kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. [On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God. Everyone was amazed at all that he was doing.]

POST COMMUNION

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

St John's Guild



Christians Supporting
Blind People

The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects*, 1997, which includes *The Common Worship Lectionary* (the Church of England's adaptations of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721.
www.rpbooks.co.uk Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk

Funded by St John's Guild www.stjohnsguild.org


redemptorist
publications